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FORMER OSI RESTAURANT PARTNERS EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT WIRE FRAUD

Jacksonville

Tampa, FL - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that Owen R. Galvin (age 40, of Lakewood Ranch) today pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Galvin faces a maximum penalty of twenty years in federal prison.

According to the plea agreement, Galvin and his coconspirators worked for Outback Steakhouse's corporate parent, OSI, and its subsidiary property holding company, PropCo, in the companies' treasury and finance departments. Beginning in August 2009 and continuing through March 2010, Galvin and his coconspirators defrauded OSI and PropCo by creating false or altering actual invoices from vendors to whom OSI owed money. The fraudulent invoices caused OSI and PropCo to send thirteen wire transfers totaling \$1,919,367.13 to bank accounts established in the names of shell companies set up by Galvin and his coconspirators to receive the stolen funds. Galvin's coconspirator Mark T. Watson entered into a plea agreement that was filed October 27, 2010, and is scheduled to enter his guilty plea to conspiracy to commit wire fraud on November 18, 2010. A third coconspirator, Jeremy Schweickert, pled guilty to the same offense on September 10, 2010, and is scheduled to be sentenced on December 3, 2010.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mandy Riedel.